Assistance for Sugar Factories in Maharashtra

763. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what decision Government have taken on the Maharashtra Government's request for providing additional funds to the National Cooperative Development Corporation so as to enable it to provide assistance to the sugar factories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme an outlay of Rs. 350.00 crores has been proposed by National Cooperative Development Corporation for supplementing the resources of the State Government for share capital participation in the new cooperative sugar factories during the 8th Plan period. The outlay proposed by NCDC has since been agreed to by the Government of India. This outlay is expected to take care of assistance to cooperative sugar factories in India, including sugar factories in Maharashtra.

Working of National Seeds Corporation

764. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of grants given to the National Seeds Corporation during the last three years;

(b) what is the strength of the employees of the National Seeds Corporation and what is the annual expenditure on their emoluments during the last three years; and

(c) whether the working of the National Seeds Corporation has been evaluated and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Amount of grants received by National Seeds Corporation (NSC) from the Government of India for implementation of central sector schemes during the last three years is as under :—

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Amount of grants
1989-90	142.34
1990-91	218.91
1991-92	1977.99
TOTAL :	2339.24

(b) The staff strength of the employees of NSC and annual expenditure on their emoluments during last three years is as under :—

Year	Strength of employees Regular	Daily wage	Total	Annual expenditure on their emoluments (Salary, Allowances and Wages) excluding other benefits. (Rs. in lakhs)
1989-90	1663	632	2295	640.59
1990-91	1631	520	2151	740.46
1991-92	1579	504	2083	729.71

(c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Tata Consultancy Services had undertaken a diagnostic review of the working of NSC and identified areas of strength and weaknesses in order to improve the working of the Corporation. The study highlighted the following major issues :—

(i) That NSC was not efficient in most of the areas of its activities and was, thus, incurring heavy losses.

(ii) That the staff level of NSC in relation to its turn over was very high.

(iii) That the Corporation has accumulated losses to the tune of Rs. 24.51 crores by 31-3-1991 which have increased to Rs. 27.55 crores by 31-3-1992.

The major recommendations made by the Consultants for improving the efficiency of the Corporation are as follows :—

(i) Increase in production and marketing activities.

(ii) Revision of its product mix.

(iii) Adjustment of staff level to match the revised production and marketing activities.

(iv) Writing-off accumulated losses by the Government of India to improve its debt : equity ratio.

765. [*Withdrawn.*]

Crop Insurance Scheme

766. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any crop insurance scheme is in force;

(b) if so, in which States; and

(c) whether the scheme is proposed to be introduced in Punjab and other States where the scheme is not in force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) At present the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is in force in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Pondicherry.

(c) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is a voluntary scheme. States are free to implement it in the notified area. However, Punjab and some other States have not implemented the scheme right from its inception.

Recommendations of High Power Committee on Agricultural Marketing Bodies

767. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the recommendations of the High Power Committee constituted to review the functioning of Agricultural marketing bodies;

(b) whether Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the time frame to implement these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Committee has not yet submitted its final report.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras during VIIIth Plan

768. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress in the announcement made by him for setting up 270 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in different parts of the country during 8th Five Year Plan; and

(b) by when these Krishi Vigyan Kendras would come into existence and what are the details of their financial arrangement ?